

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1, between lines 2 and 3, directly following the title of the invention:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority of European patent application no. 02020121.6, filed September 7, 2002, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference. --

The paragraph starting at page 1, line 11, is amended and now reads as follows:

-- Ribbed V-belts function, for example, for transmitting force in areas of use which include office machines to the heaviest machine drives. Ribbed V-belts are also used in motor vehicles in different configurations. During use, the ribbed V-Belts are subjected to the most different operating conditions. High requirements are imposed with respect to resistance to wear, noise and dynamic loading. The belts should have the longest possible service life and, at the same time, reduced running noise especially in the area of motor vehicles and household products. Noises arise in frictionally-engaged drive belts such as ribbed V-belts because of friction conditions between drive discs and the belt surface which ~~causes~~ cause squeaking sounds because of oscillation or vibration. --

The paragraph starting at page 11, line 25, is amended and

now reads as follows:

-- In FIG. 2, the same ribbed V-belt  $[[1]]$  is shown after a brushing operation wherein a portion of the fibers 5 lying on the surface in the outer coating 4 is raised on the ribs. --